

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 879

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Michael Wayne Tinsley of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Staff Sergeant Michael Wayne Tinsley, a courageous member of the United States Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Tinsley was an exemplary public servant and consummate military professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of Billy Joe and Laura Jean Tinsley, Michael Wayne Tinsley was born on May 19, 1960 in Brookfield, Missouri, and graduated from Trenton High School in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tinsley answered duty's call and enlisted in the United States Navy in 1978 as an aircraft mechanic with Antisubmarine Squadrons 31 and 22; serving aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, he courageously provided support during the Iran Hostage Crisis; and

WHEREAS, after he was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1988, Michael Tinsley lived in Missouri and Alabama before moving to Tennessee and serving with acumen and alacrity at the Plumley Corporation and Dura Automotive Systems, where he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike due to the outstanding quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty, Mr. Tinsley joined the Army National Guard in 2002 and proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Tinsley was deployed to Iraq in 2004 and served with Detachment 1, Company A, 230th Engineer Battalion as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom; not

only was he proud and pleased to be able to contribute to the freedom of twenty-seven million Iraqis, but he was also quite successful at his mission of providing front gun truck security during Operation Blade Runner; and

WHEREAS, after returning home from the war, Michael Tinsley moved back to Jackson, attended Truck Driving School in Texas, and began his estimable tenure with Schneider National Trucking Service, where he rendered sterling service until the time of his death; and,

WHEREAS, with the transformation of the Tennessee Army National Guard in 2006, Staff Sergeant Tinsley became a member of Company E, 1-117th Infantry Battalion and, later, Engineer Troop, 1/278th Armed Calvary Regiment; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tinsley's death came most unexpectedly, as he and his son were awaiting deployment to Iraq at Camp Shelby; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished military career, Staff Sergeant Tinsley garnered a number of decorations, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon/4th Award, and Tennessee War Service Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Tinsley was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Michael Tinsley was the proud father and father-in-law of Amber Tinsley, Michael, Jr., and Richelle Tinsley, Joey Tinsley, and Chris Tinsley, and he was also the doting grandfather of Michael James Tinsley and Marissa Lee Tinsley; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Tinsley will also be sorely missed by his parents, Billy Joe and Laura Jean Tinsley, and his brother, Billy Dale Tinsley; and

WHEREAS, this heroic Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Tinsley's courageous service to his country stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our Nation at the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Michael Wayne Tinsley, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Tinsley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.